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Senate

(Legislative day of Wednesday, February 6, 2008)

The Senate met at 10:30 a.m., on the expiration of the recess, and was called to order by the Honorable SHELDON WHITEHOUSE, a Senator from the State of Rhode Island.

PRAYER

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Today's prayer will be offered by our guest Chaplain, Rabbi Cheryl Jacobs of the Jewish Healing Center, Plantation, FL.

The guest Chaplain offered the following prayer:

Dear God, what do I desire for my country? How do I vision the land I love? Let it be a land where knowledge is free, where the mind is without fear and men and women hold their heads high, where words come out from the depths of truth, where our leaders have the courage and the permission to lead, where Americans have faith in our land, in our leaders, and in themselves.

Let it be a land where we live free of fear, a land safe for our children and for the generations that have yet to be, where our Nation has not been broken up into fragments by narrow domestic walls, where the brave men and women who fight for our country are revered and honored for the heroes they are.

And let it be a land where tireless striving stretches its arms toward perfection and where there are limitless opportunities for all people. Into that heaven of freedom, let my country awake.

May the Lord bless us and keep us. May the Lord cause His face to shine upon us. May the Lord bless our country with peace. Amen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Honorable SHELDON WHITEHOUSE led the Pledge of Allegiance, as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

APPOINTMENT OF ACTING PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will please read a communication to the Senate from the President pro tempore (Mr. BYRD).

The bill clerk read the following letter:

U.S. SENATE,
PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE,
Washington, DC, February 7, 2008.

To the Senate:

Under the provisions of rule I, paragraph 3, of the Standing Rules of the Senate, I hereby appoint the Honorable SHELDON WHITEHOUSE, a Senator from the State of Rhode Island, to perform the duties of the Chair.

ROBERT C. BYRD,
President pro tempore.

Mr. WHITEHOUSE thereupon assumed the chair as Acting President pro tempore.

RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The majority leader is recognized.

ORDER OF PROCEDURE

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that there be a period of morning business for up to 60 minutes, with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 10 minutes each.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

SCHEDULE

Mr. REID. Mr. President, on the stimulus package, I have had a number of conversations with the Republican leader this morning. I have a way forward, but we don't have a way forward yet. We are going to see if we can continue working so that we have a way forward. We are having some discussions. He is indisposed for an hour. When he gets back, we will meet again.

All Senators should know that we have to finish FISA this week. Hopefully, we can finish it today and, if not, tomorrow. We have to finish it this week. As for the stimulus package, it would be good to finish it today, but we may not be able to. Procedurally, we may have to wait until tomorrow or maybe even Tuesday. But we are working on that.

Like I said, I have a way forward, but we don't have a way forward. I will try to see if we can have a situation where it is "we" rather than "I." I hope that works out well.

As I indicated last night, we had a good bipartisan vote. It would have been better if we had one more bipartisan vote, but it was still something we should all feel good about. We are trying to move this country forward. The economy is in real trouble now, as indicated in today's press. Now the Fed is worried about inflation, and in addition to that, we have other countries worried about inflation—European countries. It is really a time of trouble. That is why we have to continue to work on the stimulus package to see if we can come up with something.

RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Leadership time is reserved.

MORNING BUSINESS

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. There will now be 1 hour of morning business, with Senators permitted to speak therein for 10 minutes each.

The Senator from Florida is recognized.

THANKING THE VISITING CHAPLAIN

Mr. MARTINEZ. Mr. President, I was running in late. I am devastated that I missed the prayer by Rabbi Cheryl Jacobs, from Broward County, FL. I am

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.



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